

New Fiction

Continued from Preceding Page.

him as indubitably the Christ. But the mischief grows, and at last culminates in a veritable witches Sabbath, with an orgy in the parish church. The whole thing is narrated quietly, with a restrained power, but it is hair raising in its effect. In the end the evil spirit is exorcised by the fearless innocence of a child, little Marie, but here as in the earlier parts there is no crude moralization or definitely bound allegorizing of the thing. It baffles any attempt to describe it briefly. The book can be properly labeled with the tag of unique, for there is nothing very like it in any other modern literature.

HENRY WALKER.

THE REVOLT OF THE OYSTER. By Don Marquis. Doubleday, Page & Co.

IN the title story of this collection, and also in "The Saddest Man" and "How Hank Signed the Pledge," we have much of the quintessential Marquis. Most of the nine other stories might, possibly, have been written by any one of half a dozen expert makers of fiction, but no one living but Marquis himself would ever have handled the tragic theme of the "Revolt of the Oyster" in just the way it is handled. And the incident of Hank's involuntary immersion in the cistern and the unfair advantage taken of it by his wife and the Rev. Brother Cartwright (reproduced with some modification from the chapter in "Danny's Own Story") is altogether Marquisian. So, too, is the material gathered together to explain why "The Saddest Man" was entitled to that distinction.

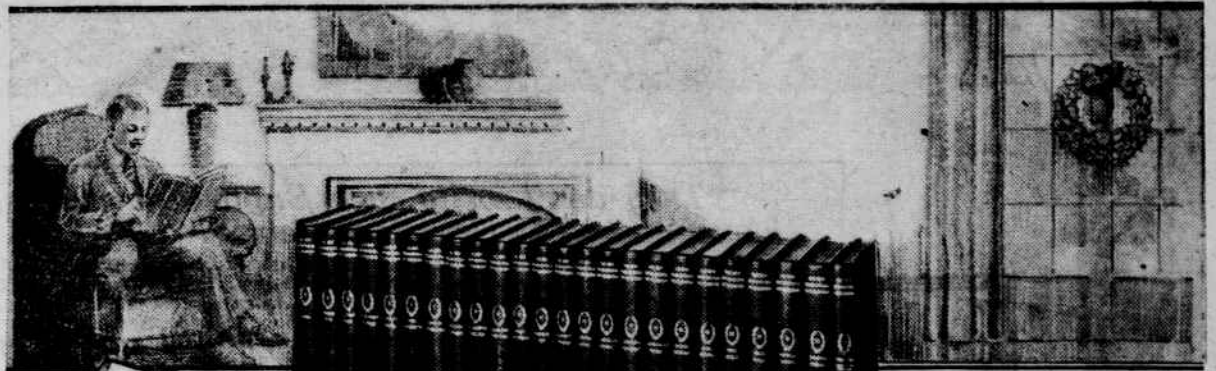
"The Revolt of the Oyster" deals with that great turning point in evolutionary history when it was decided that civilization should progress upon land, with Man as its leader, instead of in the sea with the Oyster as ruler. During the titanic combat between the Giant Oyster and "Probably Arboreal," we are told that "while they were stirred and held by the sense of tremendous things impending, neither men nor oysters could be expected to understand definitely what almost infinite things depended upon this battle. There were no Darwins then. Evolution had not yet evolved the individual able to catch her at it. But she was on her way." It is obviously true that we can only understand history in long retrospect. Hence the value of such veracious chronicles as this. It is also noteworthy that the feminine influence is decisive even thus early, as it was the red haired lady, Parrot Feathers, who spurred our Probably Arboreal ancestor on to victory. As Goethe has remarked: *Das Ewig Weibliche* leads us onward.

The reproduction of an episode from "Danny's Own Story" is a happy idea, as the novel itself is out of print and hard to procure. One may hope that some day he will issue a revision of the whole book—his first and a somewhat immature product, but full of characteristically good chapters like this.

The ironic study, "If We Could Only See," exhibits Marquis the mature dramatic satirist and is the most carefully finished story in the volume. Indeed, all his more recent short stories reveal the naturally dramatic bent of his creative impulses, which run rather in this direction than in that of simpler narrative. The five boy and dog stories, which conclude the volume, inevitably suggest comparison to "Tom Sawyer" and "Huck Finn"—not that there is any slavish imitation, but rather that Marquis and Mark Twain have a genuine literary kinship, especially in their sympathetic understanding of that strange animal the human boy. The other stories of this collection are somewhat slender sketches; pleasantly entertaining, but of comparatively slight importance.

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH. By Gilbert K. Chesterton. Harper & Brothers.

IN THIS collection of short stories, strung together upon a central idea so as to make a more or less consecutive whole, Mr. Chesterton appears to have had a definite purpose, a sinister moral to point out, which detracts somewhat from the cleverness of the total for, as is most likely to happen in any heavily



*A gift to your family
that will last a lifetime
and give pleasure and help
every day of the year*

*The Monumental Achievement of 500 Brilliant Minds
The Making of a National Encyclopaedia by Americans—for Americans*

To You the New International Encyclopaedia should stand for a splendid national achievement. It gives to America *her own* encyclopaedia, world-wide in scope, but written from the American viewpoint and with an understanding of our daily interests and needs.

That is why the New International Encyclopaedia is the standard authority in America's educational institutions, government departments, courts and libraries. That is why the New International Encyclopaedia in your home will be a mark of distinction, evidence that the mental and cultural needs of all the family are adequately provided for.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA

gives you twenty-four volumes of fascinating, and instructive, stories that cover all the world's knowledge. It carries you through the fields of literature and science, history and religion, industry and art, giving interesting descriptions and splendid photographs of the things you want to know about. And for daily use, it offers practical answers to any questions you may bring to it.

Extensive Revisions Just Completed

A wealth of new knowledge is contained in important revisions just completed in the New International Encyclopaedia. It covers vital subjects that are of great and timely interest—labor problems, radio, armies and navies, shipping, taxation, gland treatment, India, Russia, Japan, Ireland, international politics, etc., and a long list of new biographies of such men as Foch, Marconi, Burroughs, etc.

The New International Encyclopaedia should be in your home. It will mean much in the education and culture of all the family. There is no gift for the home that will return a greater measure of satisfaction.

Send the Coupon for
Free Descriptive Book
DODD, MEAD & COMPANY
Publishers, New York

This Free Book Tells the Whole Story
Dodd, Mead & Co., Inc., Publishers, 449 Fourth Av., New York City
Please send me free book describing the New International Encyclopaedia (Second Edition, with latest revisions) and details of the present special price and Monthly List of Prize Questions enabling me to win a liberal credit on any Dodd, Mead book each month. (Her.12-3-22)
Name
Occupation
Bus. Address
Residence
Town State

If you enjoyed "The Grey Room" you will be thrilled by

EDEN PHILLPOTTS' THE RED REDMAYNES

A NEW MYSTERY NOVEL OF BAFFLING CONTENT

The author of "The Grey Room" has written another thrilling story of love and mystery staged in the Dartmoor country—that country of mystery and romance—and amid the picturesqueness of Lake Como. Three strange disappearances, with clues of blood stains—this is the problem that Mark Brendon, Scotland Yard detective, and Peter Ganns, United States official, are called upon to solve.

IT REALLY MYSTIFIES!

\$2.00 wherever books are sold, or direct from

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

64-66 Fifth Avenue

New York City